

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on February 1, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair, Officer Amber Eades, and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

**ABSENT:** Suzanne Jennings.

**VISITORS:** Joe Naff, William Fields and Allen Kelly.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Chief Clair rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 19, 2021 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Barker, Cornett and Carter voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Mayor Helms read and presented a Resolution for Black History Month 2021 to Mr. William Fields. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution for Black History Month 2021 was accepted. Mr. Fields thanked everyone for the presentation.

Mayor Helms gave an update on COVID-19 vaccinations noting several employees will be receiving the second vaccination in a couple weeks. For any questions about the vaccinations contact Samantha White.

Mr. Fenyk reported he will follow-up tomorrow on 1116 Matson Drive Deed. All required signatures have been received on documents for 555 South Main Street and will be recorded tomorrow. Mr. Fenyk continues to work on Callan Drive Rec Park Project. He also noted FOIA and Conflict of Interest training needs to be completed.

Mayor Helms noted the next council meeting will be Monday, February 15, 2021, even though this is a holiday, due to several employees getting vaccinated on February 16, 2021.

Ms. Stanley reviewed a request from a business to move BPOL due date to March 1<sup>st</sup> annually. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, council will proceed to change the BPOL due date to March 1 annually beginning March 1, 2022.

Chief Clair gave an update on Qualified Immunity Bill noting it has been referred to the Crime Commission Committee. Chief Clair met with the Director of the State Hospital regarding ECO/TDO.

Office Eades gave an update on the Accreditation process. She noted there will be a mock assessment mid-March.

Mr. Heath reviewed a RBEG Small Business Loan Application for Tessa Brown. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG Small Business Loan Application for Tessa Brown/Broad Street Coffee and Treats was approved for \$15,000, payable at 2% interest over 60 months. Mr. Heath reviewed the deteriorating condition of Christmas lights. He presented an estimate of \$40,000 for 75 decorations. He will get three quotes and he also noted there are big discounts this time of year. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, council approved proceeding with the purchase of new Christmas decorations not to exceed \$40,000. Mr. Heath will get pricing and bring back to council at the February 15, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Rush noted the town was awarded an \$8,000 Litter Grant. Mr. Rush reviewed CIRP Phase 6 Water, noting a variance (no more than 3 ongoing projects at one time) was granted to proceed with CIRP Phase 7 and 8 Water. The Park BLVD Sidewalk/Drainage Project will go to bid in approximately 30 days. Mr. Rush noted preliminary work is beginning for the consideration of a 5-10-year plan for property development.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk